

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8399

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4045

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SF, PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL APPROACH AGAINST EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA
FROM UN

REF: STATE 230020

1. CHARGE DELIVERED SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO OCTOBER 22 AND MADE POINTS SET FORTH PARA 6 REFTEL. FACIO STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT COSTA RICA WILL OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA FROM UN, BUT HER POSITION ON A SUSPENSION RESOLUTION IS NOT CERTAIN. GOCR CONSIDERS SOUTH AFRICA'S APARTHEID POLICY REPUGNANT AND ALSO BELIEVES ITS DEFIANCE OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON NAMIBIA IS REPROACHABLE. COSTA RICA'S DECISION ON THIS VOTE WILL BE TAKEN ACCORDINGLY.

2. CHARGE EMPHASIZED THAT AN ABSTENTION WOULD STILL SHOW DISAPPROVAL OF SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICIES WITHOUT INCURRING OTHER DISADVANTAGES OF A FAVORABLE VOTE TO SUSPEND. FACIO REPLIED THAT HE WILL CONSIDER OUR POSITION CAREFULLY AND HE WILL INSTRUCT SALAZAR IN NEW YORK TO WORK CLOSELY ON THIS MATTER WITH USUN. HE OBSERVED THAT MUCH WILL DEPEND ON PRECISE WORDING OF RESOLUTION ACTUALLY PUT TO VOTE SINCE COSTA RICA WOULD HAVE TO PROTECT BOTH PRINCIPLES AND FACE. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT A U.S. VETO WOULD BE VERY UNFORTUNATE.

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3. TODAY'S PRESS (OCTOBER 22) REPORTS THAT AT PRESS
CONFERENCE LAST EVENING FACIO SAID COSTA RICA IS
INCLINED TO FAVOR SUSPENSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM UN.
THAT SEEMS AN ACCURATE CHARACTERIZATION, ALTHOUGH IN
OUR CONVERSATION TODAY FACIO MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO
FINAL DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN.
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